

WILSON DENIES LEAGUE DELAYED PEACE PARLEY; REVISION NEARLY FINISHED

President Issues Statement In Paris in Which He Explodes English Fears—Declares Covenant, as It Now Stands, "Confers the Greatest Benefits Upon the World."

Paris, March 27.—The story printed in a French afternoon paper today to the effect that a sensational communication will be issued in a day or two by the "big four" and it will probably herald immediate peace brought out this non-committal comment from the American delegation: "Good news if true."

Paris, March 27.—President Wilson, in a formal statement today, denied categorically the charges that the work on the league of nations project has been, and is, delaying peace.

The President said all sessions dealing with the league have been held at a time when they could in no way interfere with other peace problems and that "no part of the league conferences has ever interfered with any form of delay."

Statement of President. Simultaneously, Mr. Wilson announced that the revised covenant "now is practically finished," and "almost immediately be presented a second time to the public."

Of the criticisms to the original covenant the President said they had been "fortunately drawn out," and taken advantage by the commission of which he is the chairman. His statement follows:

"In view of the very surprising misconception which seems to exist in some quarters that it is the discussions of the commission on the league of nations that are delaying the final formulation of peace, I am very glad to take the opportunity of reporting that the conclusions of this commission were the first to be laid before the plenary conference."

"During the last few days the commission has been engaged in an effort to take advantage of the criticisms which the public."

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DECLARES WIRE STRIKE NEEDED

S. J. Koenenkamp, Union President, Says It's Way To Convince Burleson.

Chicago, March 27.—S. J. Koenenkamp, international president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, tonight declared rapid and effective preparations were being made for a vote of telegraphers and telephone operators for a nation-wide walkout, effective April 22. Mr. Koenenkamp predicted 90 per cent of the workers would vote for a nation-wide tie-up. "I am convinced that Burleson will do nothing until a walkout occurs," he said at union headquarters tonight. "Burleson will listen to no one except Western Union officials. We have been anxious for a peaceful adjustment, but Mr. Burleson continually repeats that all the trouble is caused by agitators. Under these circumstances there is nothing we can do except to show him how he has been misled."

Mr. Koenenkamp stated the Chicago workers felt there was no alternative except to vote for the strike. Reports from Alabama and Oklahoma City, he said, were to the effect that the workers of the Southeast were insistent upon a strike.

11-CENT "GAS" IN TRADE WAR

Standard and Gulf Refining Companies Cut Prices. Autoists Benefit.

Memphis, Tenn., March 27.—Memphis autoists were able to buy gasoline for 11 cents a gallon today, provided they purchased in lots of five gallons or more, from tank wagons or at filling stations, as the result of a price cutting war between the Standard Oil Company and the Gulf Refining Company. The Standard made the latest cut when it announced shortly before noon that it had reduced its tank wagon price from 12 cents to 11 cents, which price is being charged independent filling stations or private consumers who buy from the tank wagons. The Gulf is charging consumers 13 cents at filling stations and 12 cents to proprietors of independent stations. The Gulf declares that the Standard is cutting price throughout Tennessee and in several other States, including Louisiana and Arkansas.

Women May Hold Any Office In League, Even Chairmanship

Paris, March 27.—Women will be entitled to hold any office in the league of nations, even the chairmanship of the executive council.

A decision to this effect was reached at yesterday's meeting of the league commission, it became known tonight.

France's proposal of an international military staff still is hanging fire.

The commission has completed arrangements to proceed immediately with the formation of league bureaus pending ratification of the amended covenant by the various parliaments.

Taft and Wilson Working Together by Cable on Covenant

Former President Forwarded Four Proposed Amendments Which Were Put Before the Redraft Commission.

Former President Taft is working by cable with President Wilson in an effort to so amend the league of nations covenant as to make it acceptable to opposition Republicans.

This was disclosed officially today when the White House left it be known that the Peace Conference in Paris is working on four amendments, written by Taft at President Wilson's request.

Safeguard Monroe Doctrine. The amendments have to do largely, it is said, with safeguarding the Monroe Doctrine, one of the foremost points of contention between the President and Republican senators. Taft drafted his proposed amendments shortly after President Wilson returned to France. Before dispatching them he asked Secretary Tamm to inquire of the President whether suggestions were in order. The President responded that he would be very glad to hear Taft's proposals.

The amendments were then cabled to the President through official channels and the President personally acknowledged receipt of them in a later message for Taft.

In administration quarters the view was expressed that the high sense of opposition to the league has been passed and that both in Congress and throughout the country there is a marked upturn in favor of a league. Complete confidence is voiced that the league covenant as drafted will meet the demands of opponents of the original draft.

Already some opposition Senators have shown a tendency to be far more receptive toward the plan than at first. This change in sentiment is noted both in Republican and Democratic opposition ranks. However, there are a few, among them Senators Reed and Poindexter, and possibly also Borah, who will fight any league proposition to the last.

WOODMEN RAISE PREMIUM RATE

Dues Boosted 62½ Per Cent—Will Add \$1,165,000 Monthly to Fund.

Chicago, March 27.—By a vote of 354 to 65, the national convention of the Modern Woodmen of America today adopted rate schedules three and four, calling for an increase of 62½ per cent on premiums.

The recommendation of the head campaign calling for a flat increase of 50 per cent was amended to include a rate of 60 per cent for new members about 25 years old. It was said the increase will add \$1,165,000 a month to the order's insurance fund.

Enormous losses due to the influenza epidemic were given today as the reason for the 50 per cent increase in rates of insurance voted yesterday for the more than 1,000,000 members of the Woodmen.

SOVIET FOR U. S. DEBS PREDICTS

Convicted Anti-Draft Agitator Declares Bolshevism Has Been Misrepresented.

Youngstown, O., March 27.—Eugene W. Debs, sentenced to serve ten years in prison for his speech in opposition to the draft at Canton last year, gave a farewell address here last night. "I may not see you again," he told the audience, "but do your part and I'll do mine."

"I envy the comrades in Hungary," he said, discussing the Bolshevik movement. "They have the full measure of the revolution, while I can only go to jail for it."

Debs asserted that Bolshevism now in Hungary will spread to Austria and "will get Germany despite Scheidemann and others," and that it will reach this country.

"Learn to pronounce the word 'Soviet,'" he advised, "because it is coming here."

"I would not be for Bolshevism if it were what they say it is," the speaker asserted.

He accused capitalism of misrepresenting the movement and its leaders.

FIRE DAMAGES HARRIS STORE STOCK \$20,000

Goods But Partially Insured. Origin of Blaze Remains a Mystery.

SAKS' STOCK INJURED

Fire Confined to Building. Water Destroyed More Stock Than Flames.

Aided by a stiff breeze, a blaze that originated in the office of the Harris Shop, 1212 F street northwest, last night spread through the building damaging a stock of cloaks, hats, ladies suits and other garments to the extent of \$20,000. Only part of the damage was covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Shortly before ten o'clock, a local fire alarm one alarm brought out the downtown quota of fire apparatus to the scene.

For a time the blaze threatened to spread to nearby buildings, but fifteen minutes after the firemen arrived it was under control, confined to the building in which it originated.

The damaged building is flanked on the east by the Saks Fur Company. Fire stored on the upper floors of this building were damaged by smoke. The extent of the damage cannot be ascertained until thorough inspection has been made.

Some of the stock in the Harris Shop, the stock there is believed untouched. One theory of the origin is a smoldering flame in the office waste from yesterday afternoon when the store was closed.

Origin is Unknown. The electric wiring was in good condition, with no fuses blown, when the apparatus arrived, which eliminated, according to authorities, possibility of crossed-wire origin.

The greatest damage was caused by water. The blaze reached the third story and water penetrated the intervening floors until it flowed at the level of the second floor on the ground floor. The basement is believed to be damaged. It was the stock which the blaze ravaged.

Would Advertise D. C. By Use of Billboards

Billboards strung along the railroad lines from New York to the entrance of the nation's capital will advertise the advantages of Washington as a desirable commercial center to the benefit of the establishment of new industries under a plan outlined by Lester Lansburgh to the Advertising Club at its regular monthly dinner at Rauscher's night.

On the fundamental publicity theory, "if you've got something good advertise it," he pictured some of the ideas which the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association is promoting for the purpose of attracting the attention of business interests seeking locations for factory sites and commercial institutions.

Summarized the recommendations are as follows: **Committee Recommendations.** Finance.—The committee asks an appropriation of \$10,000 to cover a year's advertising to be expended as follows: Bill Boards.—Four thousand dollars to be used in the erection of bill boards along the main lines of railroads and highways entering Washington and at points between Philadelphia and New York bearing such slogans as the following: Put Your Manufacturing Plant at the Gateway to the South. Write Today Merchants and Manufacturers' Association. Think of the Advertising Given a Product Manufactured in the Nation's Capital.

Manufacturers' Association. Manufacturers Will Grow with the Nation in the Nation's Capital. Write Today Merchants and Manufacturers' Association. Washington: The Gateway to the South. Offers You Manufacturing Sites.

Write Today Merchants and Manufacturers' Association. Each bill board shall have an imprint of the Capitol dome. Other bill boards are to be set up in Washington encouraging the "buying in Washington" spirit.

The committee further recommends the use of a "buy-in-Washington" seal as well as a "made-in-Washington-D. C. U. S. A." seal to be used by the retailing, jobbing and manufacturing industries. The committee also recommends that the operators of the Capitol dome be set up in Washington encouraging the "buying in Washington" spirit.

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RED ARMY IN GALICIA; ANTIS GAIN IN DVINSK; CZECHS CROSS DANUBE

French Demand Swift Campaign Through Germany Against Reds

Paris, March 27.—Gen. Maletier, writing in the Matin, and presumably reflecting the opinion of officialdom, today urged the allies to penetrate Germany, passing through Kiel, Berlin, Dresden and Vienna, and making a liaison at Belgrade with the Rumanian army.

This, he pointed out, would cut off Germany and Hungary from Russia, insuring the collapse of the Bolshevik front.

Premier Clemenceau has called Gen. Mangin from Mayence to Paris, presumably to appoint him to head a mission to Hungary.

All Is Lovely In Hungary, Says First Dispatch Out

If Censor Didn't Write It, Rich and Poor Alike Hail Change, and There Is No War on Entente.

(Note.—Following is the first direct dispatch from Hungary to be received in this country since the Bolshevik government was set up at Budapest. It apparently disposes of reports that allied representatives have been mistreated, that Hungary has declared war against the entente and that there has been bloodshed.)

By EDWARD KING. United Press Staff Correspondent. (Copyright, 1919, by the United Press.) Budapest, March 26.—(Delayed.)—The Hungarian soviet republic was firmly established today without disorder or bloodshed and with amicable relations continuing with allied representatives. All aliens and allied soldiers are at complete liberty. The popularity of British and American officers has not diminished.

Everything in the country has been socialized, from the army down to the bath. This reorganization has been accomplished with approval of the wealthy and aristocratic, as well as the poor and humble.

Volunteers Form Army. A red army is being organized on a purely volunteer basis, conscription being abolished as soon as the communist government took hold. Soldiers are paid \$50 a month. They are clothed, fed and equipped without charge, and in addition they receive extra pay for support of their families. Officers are picked purely on their merit, after careful examination of their records. Indications point to formation of the largest and most contented army in the history of the country.

Law courts have been abolished and supplanted by tribunals, composed of a chairman and two members. They are virtually in continuous session and justice is meted out rapidly and effectively with more consideration for real justice.

REDS MEAN RUIN, LENINE ADMITS

But Russ Leader Declares Bolshevism May Be Beneficial in "Future."

London, March 27.—A startling confession that the workers of the world will be ruined by Bolshevism if they follow it, has been made by Premier Lenin of the Russian Bolshevik government, according to an interview printed in the Westminster Gazette. Lenin declared that he cared nothing for Russia as Russia, but that his sole consideration is internationalism. The present generations cannot benefit by the destruction and ruin wrought by Bolshevism, the principal exponent of that creed admitted, but the people "some generations ahead" will reap the reward.

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FRAUD GOT HIM CROSS, CHARGE

Court Martial of American May Be Shifted from London to Paris.

London, March 27.—Court-martial of Capt. Edmund Chamberlain, American Marine Corps, may be removed to Paris because of the great number of witnesses stationed in France which the defense intends to call, it was learned today.

Chamberlain is charged with obtaining the distinguished service cross through forged orders telling of his alleged exploits as an aviator on the British front in France last July.

An official report from Maj. Gen. Salmon, commanding the royal air force in France, was presented today. It likened Chamberlain's exploits to a "fairly story," declaring the British base from which Chamberlain claimed to have operated is mythical. It also said there are no such officers as Chamberlain said he flew with.

American Wheat Goes to Spain in Spanish Ships

Madrid, March 27.—The food ministry today announced the United States has authorized exportation to Spain of all wheat needed in this country. It will be brought here in Spanish ships.

Karolyi at Liberty. London, March 27.—A wireless dispatch from Budapest today declared Count Karolyi, deposed premier, is completely at liberty. Rumors were abroad yesterday that he had been arrested or assassinated.

Bessarabia Reported to Have Proclaimed Independence and Set Up Soviet Republic—Rumanian Force Said to Have Crossed the Maros River, Moving North. Austria Restive.

London, March 27.—Bolshevik troops are reported to have penetrated eastern Galicia and to be progressing rapidly, threatening German Austria, according to a Basle dispatch. They are reported already to have occupied the Galicia oil region.

Anti-Bolshevik forces have begun a strong offensive in the Dvinsk region, according to a wireless dispatch received from Moscow today. The communists said the Bolsheviks are defending their positions near the Miossa River.

Heavy fighting was reported in progress in Livonia and along the Tukult-Mitau railway. Czech-Slovak forces have crossed the Danube, cutting the Budapest-Vienna Railway, a news agency dispatch from Basle reported today.

(This apparently refers to occupation of Bab, which is south of the Danube, midway between Vienna and Budapest.)

Soviet in Bessarabia. Warsaw, March 25.—Bessarabia has proclaimed its independence, established a soviet republic and begun an offensive against the Rumanian army, a dispatch from Chotin announced today.

(Bessarabia was a former province of Russia, bordering Rumania on the northeast. It had been claimed and occupied by Rumania.)

The Bessarabian army has captured the important town of Soderogor and is pushing the Rumanians across the Pruth River toward Lucea.

Bellevue was expressed here that the Russian Bolsheviks are engineering the Bessarabian campaign to establish direct communication between Moscow and Budapest.

M. Liskin heads the new Bessarabian government. Chotin is in Bessarabia, fifteen miles east of Lemberg. Lucea is in Rumania, 100 miles southwest of Chotin.)

Rumanian Army in Field. London, March 27.—Gen. Harmanworth, under secretary for foreign affairs, announced in the House of Commons today that the Rumanian army is in the field.

HERALD DOUBLE VOTES ATTRACT

\$650 Extra Prize Offer Also Increases Interest In Big Drive.

The double vote extra prize offer started off in splendid shape yesterday, and a large number of candidates called at the Club headquarters to register their subscription. Each one of these subscriptions counted double the regular schedule of votes.

The \$650 extra prize offer seems to be just the stimulant that candidates need, as a large number called up the Club headquarters on Thursday and said they would certainly make a hard fight for the first extra prize of \$200 given to the candidate who turns in the largest number of votes during the double vote offer.

One of the candidates who called at the headquarters yesterday expressed much satisfaction over the extra prize offer, and he said that he was surely going to get one of them.

Division of Prizes. Here is the way the extra prizes will be divided: \$200 to the candidate who secures the largest number of votes between March 27 and April 12, inclusive; \$200 to the candidate who secures the second largest list of votes; \$150 to the third; and \$50 to the fourth.

The extra prize double vote offer will benefit every candidate, as it will be much easier to secure subscriptions with two such good arguments as double votes and extra cash money. This will be the most interesting and profitable period of the Salesmanship Club campaign.

The commission will set statistical experts to work on the mass of detailed figures presented. Every item will be thoroughly investigated. The announcement of the findings of the commission is expected within the next two or three weeks.

The valuation hearings of the Washington Railway and Electric Company will start Monday. When the figures for all of the railway and electric companies are agreed upon, a reply to a Congressional resolution ordering the hearings for the purpose of protective purchase of the lines by the government will be framed.

This reply is expected to be in the hands of Congress before the extra session is far advanced.

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Tugs Break Lake Superior Ice to Open Navigation

Duluth, Minn., March 27.—Tugs today are battling ice in the outer bay in the hope of opening navigation. Upper lakes navigation usually opens the last week in April. Mild weather this year will make it possible to open shipping two to three weeks earlier.